Tidy Towns 2002

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALROTHERY VILLAGE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	23
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	15
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**179**	**176**

Balrothery, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Balrothery is a nice little village on the outskirts of Balbriggan, which is developing quickly with new housing developments. It would be a shame to lose the village feel and nature of the place, which is why a detailed and exact plan is required for the next few years. Your list of objectives are worthwhile, although a lot of the plans seems to be focused on landscaping – don't neglect other issues that might be just as important. You need a more balanced and structured approach. Perhaps you could consider getting involved with more local organisations and statutory authorities in order to progress work?

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Balrothery appears to the visitor to be a very picturesque village with some lovely houses and buildings scattered around. The old Church and cemetery on the hill provide a remarkable view from the village and it was nice to see the grounds there maintained well. The Merry Cricketer looked wonderful, with obvious attention given to the premises since last year - it was clean and well painted and the flowers made the overall impression very welcoming and colourful. Ru-Dees Hair Salon and Village Flowers looked well, however the big container bins opposite are quite unsightly. The Village school and the thatched house opposite Tudor Hamlet looked very well. There is still quite a bit of building works continuing in different spots throughout the village which causes some disruption.

LANDSCAPING

The entrances to the village have some lovely planters and the grounds around the cemetery and church are well landscaped. Gardens throughout the village are kept well. There are attractive trees and plantings up by the new houses at Knightswood roundabout. However, the neglected field and its unattractive fence, along with the overgrown triangle of land opposite the Balrothery Inn do detract from the overall look of the village. Plans for continued landscaping over next few years are commendable and we look forward to seeing the results.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are a number of areas around Balrothery where wildlife can flourish and exist and it would be worthwhile to spend some time formulating an environmental plan for Balrothery in order to preserve this aspect of your village and to ensure that it is considered when any progress and developments are ongoing in the village over coming years. There was a lot of litter in hedgerows on the back lanes which need clearing, though it's important to do this in an organised and careful

way so as to not disturb wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

In the village centre, there was little litter evident on the day of adjudication which is to be commended, initiatives are obviously paying off in this regard. It is important to be as vigilant in areas off the main streets. There was some litter evident on the way up to the Heritage Centre by the graveyard and some in the car park of the Balrothery Inn. Outside of the village centre, on the back road behind the school there was considerable litter to be found in the hedgerows and under bushes and it appeared as though there had been no attempt to clean up in that area for a while, which was very disappointing. Balrothery is not a large town and efforts you make should extend to all areas in and around the village – any serious and continued efforts in this regard will pay off.

TIDINESS

It was nice to see the recycling facilities in the car park behind Balrothery Inn well marked, tidy and in good condition. There were quite a few weeds evident at the base of the wall along the left side of the Old Coach Road but otherwise kerb maintenance was good. The speed controls are necessary and seem to work well at controlling traffic through the village and you do not seem to have any problem with graffiti. Attention given to the overgrown field at the roundabout and the area opposite the Balrothery Inn will improve the overall appearance of the village. Whilst developments and building works are ongoing, consequential mess and untidiness is inevitable. However, it does seem to be kept to a minimum.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a nice mix of housing around Balrothery, with new developments in areas such as Knightswood, contrasting with the older more traditional styles. Tudor Hamlet and Woodview Estate looked very well, as did houses along the main street. The thatched house is very attractive, though a bit of kerb maintenance is needed out front. There are a few estates that seemed to be lacking any kind of name sign, such as up by the village school and the new houses up towards the roundabout at Knightswood – it would be nice to see the introduction of tasteful, bi-lingual signage in the future where necessary.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrances to the village are attractive, with well maintained greens forming a welcome view as you enter the village from either end. The introduction of stone name signs here, preferably bi-lingual, as outlined in your plan, would indeed be a welcome initiative and would serve to reinforce a ‘village feel’ and make the area more inclusive. There are some nice little laneways around Balrothery where some attractive housing is to be found. Be sure to be vigilant with regard to litter and weed control in these back areas too, as these small laneways and hedgerows are what differentiates

the village from other towns.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Balrothery is a nice little village and it is important that you concentrate your efforts and plans in the future in order to retain its uniqueness, whilst at the same time coming up with systems to integrate new developments and residents into the existing neighbourhood.